

Senate Risky Spot for Ex-FBI Man

Dodd Under Fire from All Sides

BY WILLARD EDWARDS
(Chicago Tribune News Service)

Washington, April 8. — A

young Yale law school graduate named Tom Dodd took cover outside the Little Bohemia Lodge, near Mercer, Wis., on April 22, 1934.

Inside were such formidable bandits of the period as John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson and John Hamilton. The 26 year old Dodd, with less than a year of training, was one of a squad of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents tipped off to the outlaw gathering.

In the resulting hail of bullets, Dodd saw one of his fellow agents killed and two others wounded. The federal men shot and killed one man and wounded two others, not mobsters. All members of the Dillinger gang, except three women, escaped.

Riskier Job in Senate?

Twenty-seven years later, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd [D., Conn.] sometimes reflects upon that episode and wonders if the dangers he encountered as an FBI agent were not more endurable, in some degree, than those he confronts today.

His posts in Congress—that of acting chairman of the Senate internal security subcommittee which probes subversive activities in the United States.

The peril attached to this position is not physical but most members of Congress shy away in horror from a job which constantly invites political disaster.

In recent days, Dodd has come to appreciate more keenly than ever before that he walks a tightrope in directing inquiries into movements designed to undermine American security.

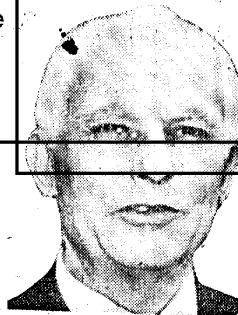
Inquiry Opens Wednesday

He has learned that he may be under fire from both the extreme right and the extreme left, subject to bitter criticism regardless of the course he chooses to pursue.

Next Wednesday, Dodd will call his subcommittee into executive session to consider demands that it investigate the John Birch society, an organization headed by Robert Welch, a retired New England manufacturer.

It is a safe prediction that the subcommittee will decide that there is no evidence that the society menaces the internal security of the nation. The same decision is reported to have been reached by the committee on un-American activities, headed by Rep. Francis E. Walter [D., Pa.], which investigates subver-

Dodd knows, however, that he can expect vitriolic criti-



Sen. Dodd

cism from left-wing organizations which have cried for exposure of the Birch society because Welch has said that a number of prominent Americans, including former President Eisenhower, were under communist influences.

Demand Quiz of Welch

These organizations besiege investigating committees with complaints whenever a witness is asked if he is a Communist and consequently supports overthrow of the government by force and violence. Such questions, they charge, are an invasion of a citizen's political opinions and beliefs.

They are demanding, however, an interrogation of Welch's political opinions. The Birch society is avowedly anti-communist.

Pondering this paradox, Dodd equated "the ultra-rightists' smears" of Welch against Gen. Eisenhower with the "naive softheaded approach of ultraliberals" to ward communism. Both groups were giving aid and comfort to the communist cause, he said.

They Cry Witch Hunt

"There are those who close their eyes to all the passive evidence that communism is an international conspiracy committed to the destruction of freedom and religion," Dodd noted. "They cry 'witch-hunt' at every effort to investigate communist front operations."

"At the other extreme, there are those who are sincerely anti-communist but who believe that everyone who disagrees with them is either a Communist or a dupe of Communists, that every political figure guilty of an error in judgment or a policy that failed, is, ipso facto, a member of the communist conspiracy."

Go Easier on Reds

Dodd remarked upon another puzzling phenomenon. Great sections of the so-called liberal press have devoted thousands of words to Welch and the Birch society in recent weeks.

"The press has a tremendous public weapon for public good in the power of exposure and comment. It has used it effectively in the case of the Birch society."

"But for some reason which I cannot understand, it has not used this weapon anywhere near as effectively against the various communist front organizations which this subcommittee has exposed."

"For my part, I would be more than satisfied if our press devoted as much column space in coming months to exposing the subterranean operations of the Communist party in this country as they have in recent weeks to exposing the excesses of the Birch society."

Hostility to Red Probes

Dodd's perplexity is not foreign to legislators who have held similar posts in the past. He is the latest of a long line of congressional leaders who have assumed the task of exposing the communist conspiracy in the United States.

From the days of Rep. Martin Dies [D., Tex.], first chairman of the House committee, and the late Sen. Pat McCarran [D., Nev.], head of the first Senate committee in the field, the record has been one of incessant controversy and well-publicized hostility to congressional investigation of subversion.

Some observers see in Dodd a resemblance to McCarran who had the requisite courage, combined with a scrupulous regard for constitutional liberties, to survive the ordeal of personal abuse and criticism.

In the Senate, he pursues what he calls a moderate course, lining up a good deal of the time with his Democratic colleagues but balking at waste and extravagance in government, particularly in administration of the foreign aid program.

At 53, he is white-haired, quiet, almost self-effacing. He is an international lawyer of repute and made a name for himself in the House by fighting the status-of-forces treaty under which American servicemen were tried for offenses under foreign laws.

He was born in Norwich, Conn., educated at Providence college and graduated from Yale law school in 1933. He spent the next two years in the FBI, then moved to the justice department, where he served under five attorneys general. He was assistant chief of the civil rights section and also was appointed as one of the American prosecutors in the Nuremberg war trials.

He served two terms in the House, was beaten in a Senate try in 1956, but won on his second attempt in 1958.

His most recent exploit, as head of the internal security subcommittee, was exposure of a commerce department license permitting the shipping of machine tools to the Soviet Union. He will be hearing testimony from manufacturing war missiles. His efforts canceled the license.

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT